

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHARTER OF THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS**

A. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans

B. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY: The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the administration of benefits by the Department for veterans who are minority group members by reviewing reports and studies on compensation, health care, rehabilitation, outreach and other services provided by the Department. The Committee assesses the needs of veterans who are minority group members and recommend program improvements designed to meet such needs.

C. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSE: The Committee will terminate on December 31, 2009, unless extended by statute.

D. OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Committee reports to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

E. OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE: Support for the Committee is provided by the Center for Minority Veterans, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.

F. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE: The Committee reviews reports and studies relating to veterans who are minority group members, and conducts assessments of minority group veterans' needs relating to compensation, health care, rehabilitation, and outreach. The Committee shall submit a report not later than July 1 of each year to the Secretary on programs and activities of the Department that pertain to the needs of veterans who are minority group members.

By statute, Committee membership shall consist of veterans who are minority group members and who have experience in a military theater of operations, veterans who are minority group members and who do not have such experience, representatives of veterans who are minority group members, and individuals who are recognized authorities in fields pertinent to the needs of veterans who are minority group members. A term of service for any member shall not exceed three years; however, the Secretary may reappoint any member for additional terms of service. "Minority group member" is an individual who is Asian American, African American, Hispanic, Native American (including American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian), or Pacific-Islander American.

Ex officio members of the Committee shall include the Secretary of Labor (or a representative), the Secretary of Defense (or a representative), the Secretary of Interior (or a representative), the Secretary of Commerce (or a representative), the Secretary of Health and Human Services (or a representative), the VA Under Secretary for Health (or a representative), and the VA Under Secretary for Benefits (or a representative). The Committee will be composed of approximately fifteen (15) members. Several members may be Regular Government Employees, but the majority of the Committee's membership will be Special Government Employees.

G. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS IN DOLLARS AND STAFF-YEARS: VA financial support for the work of the Committee is estimated at \$250,000 per year and about 1.5 FTE staff-years. All members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Committee.

H. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: The Committee is expected to meet not less than two times annually. The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), a full time VA employee; will approve the schedule of Committee meetings. The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings, and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

I. COMMITTEE'S TERMINATION DATE: December 31, 2009.

J. DATE CHARTER IS FILED:

Approved:



Gordon H. Mansfield
Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Date:

11/30/07